

HEZ DATA DICTIONARY



Age-Adjusted Death Rate for All Causes of Death

Description: Age-adjusted death rates for all causes of death per 100,000 population.

Ages: Includes all ages; rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population in order to eliminate the confounding effect of differences in age distributions by zip code area.

Age-Adjustment: A methodology used to compare rates among populations with differing age distributions.

Year(s) of Data Included:

Numerator (Death Data): 2006-2010 (average)

Denominator (Population Data): 2008 (midyear population)

Resident Allocation: Includes all deaths occurring among Maryland residents, regardless of whether the death occurred in Maryland, the remainder of the United States, or certain foreign countries that report vital event data to Maryland.

Data Suppression: Zip codes with a population less than 5,000 are suppressed.

Limitations: Cause of death information is provided by the individual who certifies the death and is generally not verified. Population figures are based on estimates, not actual counts.

Data Interpretation: This rate expresses the health of the zip code from the perspective of total deaths. It corrects for differences in zip code population size and for differences in age between zip codes. Therefore, this rate is appropriate for comparing the relative health among zip codes from the perspective of total deaths.

Data Sources: The numerator (Death Data) is based on information provided on death certificates filed with the Maryland Division of Vital Records, Vital Statistics Administration. The denominator (Population Data) is based on estimates prepared by Claritas, an information resources company that prepares population estimates for small areas.

Data Reference: Vital Statistics Administration, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Claritas.